GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2811
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
KASHMIR ISSUE
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has asked Pakistan to use its influence on militants and also to stop armed infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether European Union and France have been calling for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue during their interactions with both India and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the impact thereof in curbing militancy in Kashmir?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b)Yes, Sir. France has taken the position that it is necessary to bring an end to intrusions and violations of the Line of Control. In a statement issued by the French Foreign Office on 31st May, 1999, a French Spokesman stated that it would not be possible to re-establish trust between both countries unless violations of the LoC are put to an end.

(c) The European Union and France have called for a peaceful resolution of all issues between India and Pakistan on the basis of bilateral dialogue in keeping with bilateral commitments and the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. In a statement issued on 24th June, 1999, the EU Presidency called upon India and Pakistan to resume their dialogue in accordance with bilateral commitments and the Lahore Declaration. The EU, in a statement on 3rd August, 2000, said that it was appalled by the recent terrorists attacks in Jammu & Kashmir. It said that it utterly condemns the perpetrators of these attacks and those supporting them.

(d) Pakistan continues to sponsor terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir despite the position taken by the European Union and the rest of the international community.